

47. A method of diagnosing a *Neisseria meningitidis* infection, comprising identifying a polypeptide of Claim 25, or an antibody that is immunospecific for the polypeptide, present within a biological sample from an animal suspected of having such an infection.

48. A method for inducing an immune response in a mammal comprising administration of the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 26.

49. A therapeutic composition useful in treating humans with *Neisseria meningitidis* comprising at least one antibody directed against the polypeptide of claim 25 and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

REMARKS

Claims

Claims 1-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute, in one or more patent applications, the canceled claims, the claims as originally filed, and any other claims supported by the specification.

New claims 25-49 have been introduced. No new matter is added.

Support

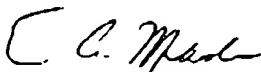
Support for the new claims is either obvious, or is as described in the text below. Support for compositions of the isolated polypeptide which include an adjuvant recited in the claims may be found, for example, at page 44, lines 1-2. Support for the hybridization conditions may be found, for example, at page 14, lines 6-10. Support for the recitation of sequence relatedness such as in claim 40 may be found in the specification, for example, at page 47, line 10 through page 48, line 5.

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Closing Remarks

Allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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